



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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Virginia's Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims

— Seasonally unadjusted weekly initial unemployment insurance claims decreased from the previous filing week as continued claims increased during that period—

RICHMOND—The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the number of initial claims filed during the most recent filing week continued the trend of recent weeks' lower claims volumes.

For the filing week ending May 15, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 10,642. The latest claims figure was a decrease of 628 claimants from the previous week. This brought the total number of claims filed since the March 21, 2020 filing week to 1,672,979, compared to the 477,600 average filed during the previous three economic recessions since 1990.

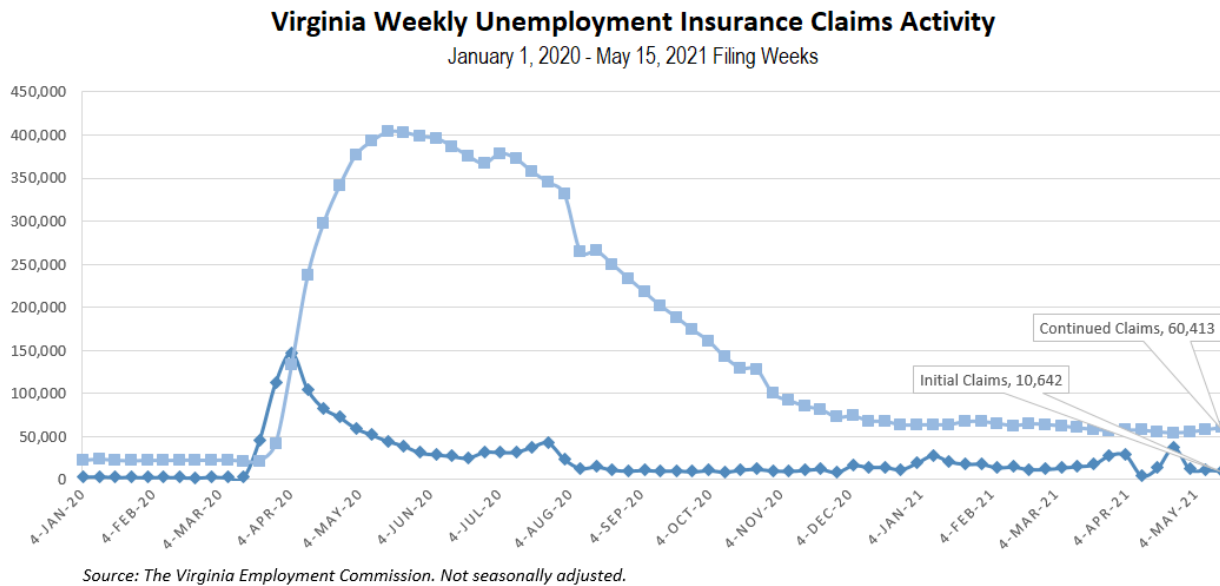
For the most recent filing week, continued weeks claimed totaled 60,413, which was an increase of 2,569 claims from the previous week, but 85% lower than the 403,557 continued claims from the comparable week last year. Over half of claims that had a self-reported industry were in the accommodation and food services, retail trade, administrative and waste services, and health care and social assistance industries. The continued claims total is mainly comprised of those recent initial claimants who continued to file for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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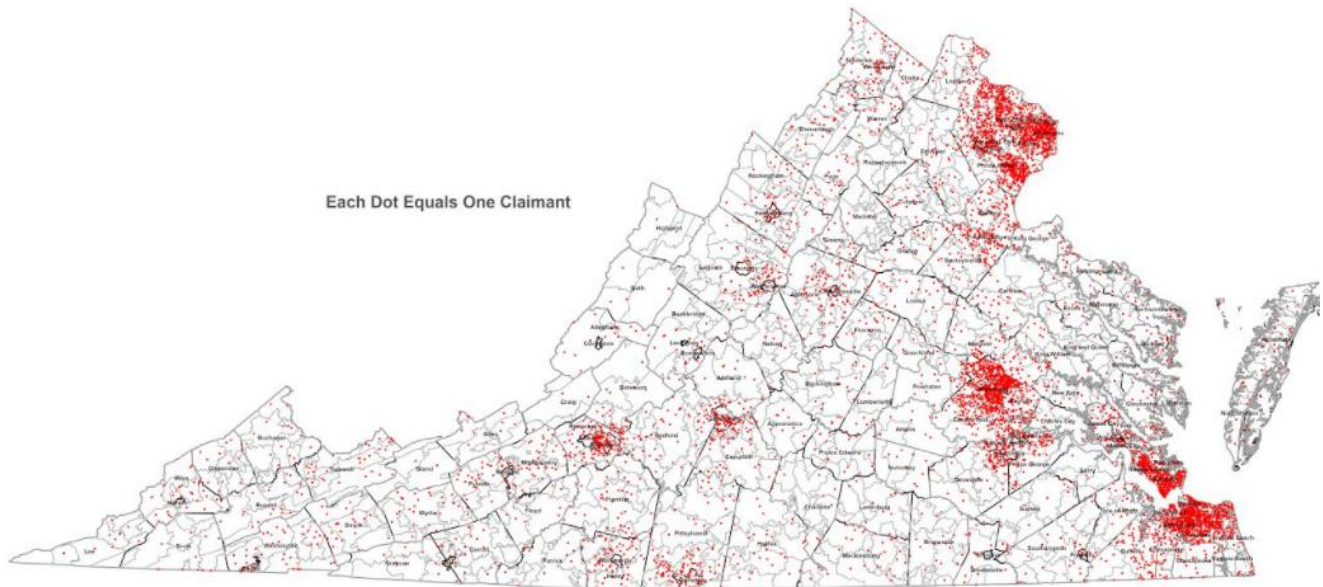
For additional information on who is claiming unemployment insurance in Virginia, access the VEC's [U.I. claims data dashboard](https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard) (<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard>) that is updated no later than the following Monday after the weekly claims press release.



Nationwide, in the week ending May 15, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 444,000, a decrease of 34,000 from the previous week's revised level. This is the lowest level for initial claims since March 14, 2020 when it was 256,000. The previous week's level was revised up by 5,000 from 473,000 to 478,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 454,634 in the week ending May 15, a decrease of 37,395 (or -7.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 2,163,595 initial claims in the comparable week in 2020. Looking at preliminary data, most states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (-8,216) was the largest decrease. Kentucky's preliminary weekly change (-7,175) was the second largest decrease. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-4,828) was the third largest decrease. Michigan's decline was the fourth largest decrease (-3,607). Virginia's negligible rise (+234) was the 11th largest increase.

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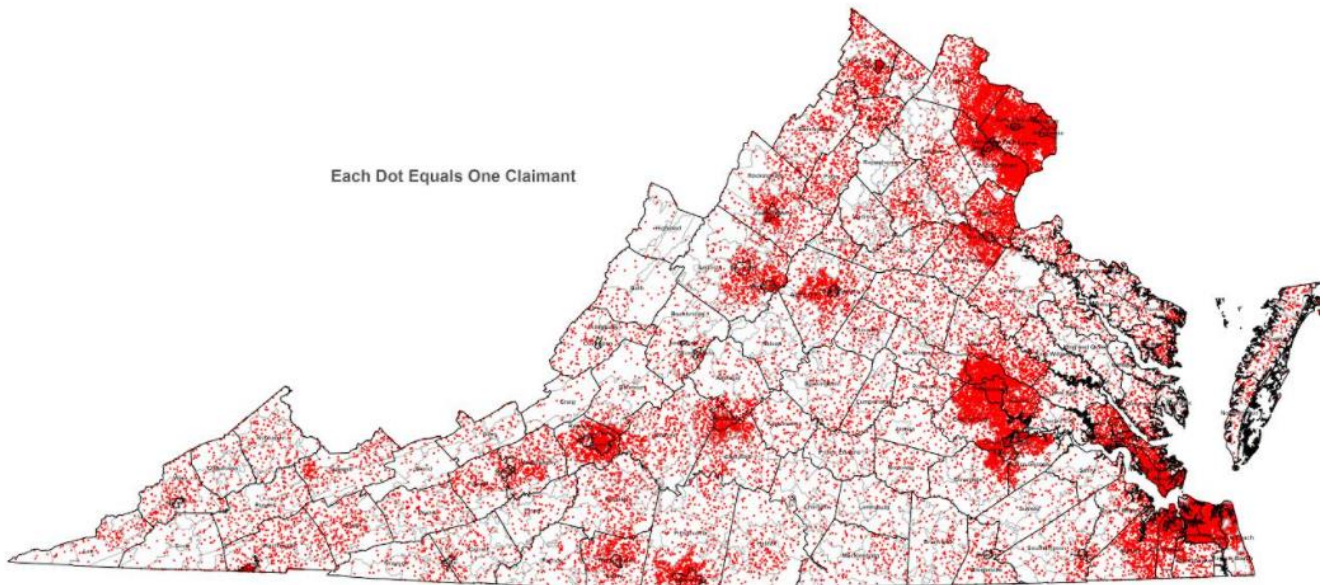
Initial Unemployment Insurance Claimants by Zip Code Area Week Ending May 15, 2021



Initial Unemployment Claims data were summed by zip code area. The dots do not show precise locations within the zip code area.

Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2021

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claimants by Zip Code Area Week Ending May 15, 2021

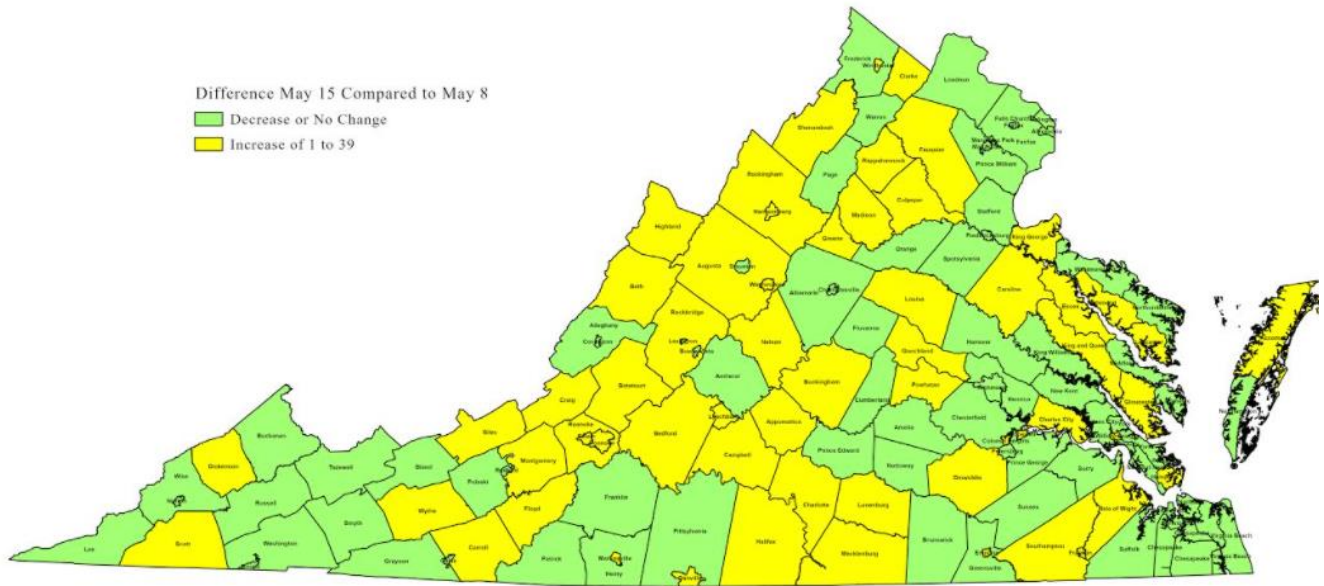


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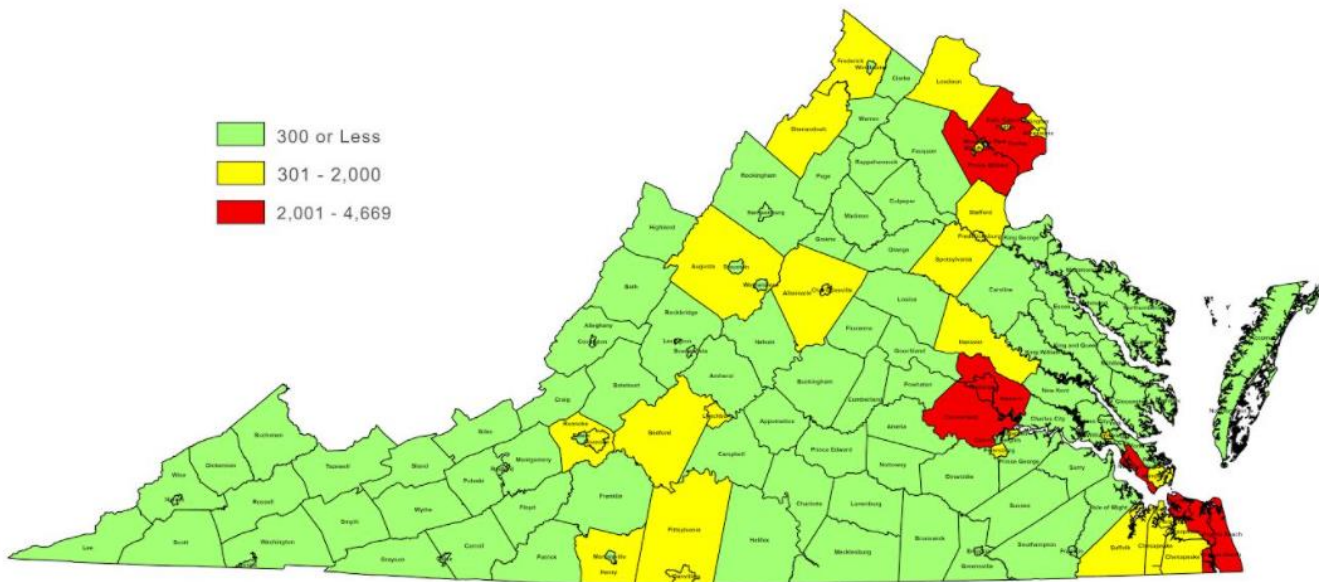
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Initial Unemployment Insurance Claimants by County and City Weeks Ending May 15, 2021 Over May 8, 2021 Change



Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2021

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claimants by County and City Week Ending May 15, 2021



Map produced by Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics Division, May 2021